

*Co. History
Pocahontas*

March 25, 1940

Mr. Z. S. Smith, President
Pocahontas County Court
Marlinton, West Virginia

Dear Mr. Smith:

Our two research workers in your county have made a fine start in gathering material for the proposed History of Pocahontas County, and the Board of Education has agreed to co-sponsor the project with the County Court so that we may proceed with the work.

However, in line with employment reductions ordered by the Work Projects Administration, we shall not be allowed to start any new projects after April 1, 1940.

If we are to have a project in Pocahontas County, it will be necessary to have it approved and sponsored by next Saturday, March 30. We trust you can agree with the Board of Education at once to sponsor our history project, letting us know by or before Saturday of this week. Otherwise, we will be compelled to drop the researchers employed in your county and discontinue the activity.

We hope you can confer with the two other members of the Court, if necessary, and with Mr. E. S. Clutter, of the Board of Education, and give us an affirmative decision on the proposal. The work already accomplished in your county indicates that a comprehensive history can be prepared in the next several months.

Thanking you for favorable action, we are

Sincerely yours,

BC/cbs

Bruce Crawford
State Supervisor

February 29, 1940

Mr. Z. S. Smith, President
Pocahontas County Court
Marlinton, West Virginia

Dear Mr. Smith:

As the Pocahontas County Board of Education has agreed to sponsor the proposed history of your county for one-half of the printing cost, we trust the County Court can see its way clear to sponsoring the project jointly with the school board.

We have already assigned two research assistants in your county and will need two more if the project is sponsored. Unless the project is sponsored within another month, we shall be compelled to drop the two persons already at work. We do not wish to do this, as we feel that the people of your county would like to have this work continued, local persons employed at Federal expense, and a good, up-to-date history of Pocahontas County published.

It is quite possible that advance orders for the book (which would be ready for publication in twelve or fifteen months) would more than defray the printing cost. The Board of Education would probably take copies for the school libraries. It is likely that no outlay of tax funds would ever be required. However, at most, the County Court would be responsible for only one-half of the printing cost.

The cost of printing would be no more and no less than the co-sponsors saw fit to make it, depending on the number of pages and number of copies you ordered the printer to print. We, ourselves, make no contract with any printer; that is left entirely to the co-sponsors. Furthermore, the Application which you sign does not require outlay of any specific sum at any stated time, so you would have plenty of latitude in the matter. Meanwhile local people would be employed at our expense for several months.

Moreover, the co-sponsors name local consultants to read and approve the manuscript for publication, thus insuring accuracy and use of proper material.

We have had manifestation of much interest in the proposed history in your county, and look forward to launching the project.

Mr. Z. S. Smith

February 29, 1940

We hope you can approve the project at your meeting next week.

Sincerely yours,

Bruce Crawford
State Supervisor

BC/obs

THE HISTORY OF POCAHONTAS COUNTY

CHAPTER VII

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

(Chapter Outline)

This section would begin where section five left off, telling the story of occupational development from the time when increasing civilization brought the rise of towns and the shift from employment in the home to specialization by workmen employed in groups to turn out manufactured products. Treating the subject chronologically within its limitations, the chapter could be developed as follows:

1. Manufacturing Industry. In Pocahontas County, this is comparatively unimportant, but cannot be overlooked because it has some history and a possible future.
 - a. First, the small manufactories that developed from home handicrafts and pioneer skills. What they were, when established, and where, by whom; what products, how made, what market, what influence on the county economic schemes? How were they capitalized, and how well did they develop and meet the shifting economic phases such as depressions, inflations and recessions; what finally happened to them? If there are any still in operation they are rare in this day of centralization, and should be treated as such. This division should tell of only those industries that were more or less locally financed and promoted. (Always give names, places and dates.)
 - b. The centralization of manufacturing; introduction of corporate control; out-of-state or other capital from outside the confines of the county; the industries which grew from this change in economic scheme; their size; location, products, number and kind of employees; the history of their expansion; their influence on the county's economic life; their interrelation with the county's natural resources; the industrial leaders who rose with industry and their influences; physical description of the larger industries as to plants and equipment and materials produced; summary of possible future industrial development, taking into consideration the resources obtainable in the county. *Sp.*
 - c. The Individual Entrepreneur. The story of the commercial establishment; in a new county this would be fairly short because its rise would be recent. Here would be treated the larger and better-known hotels, restaurants, garages, department stores and the like which have grown from the efforts of good business men with a sound financial acumen and remain home-controlled. (The company stores, chain stores, and branches of great national organizations need not be dealt with at any great length; they merit mention, but only because their presence indicates the county is a good commercial field.)
2. The Extractive Industries.
 - a. Lumber. Probably first developed; when and where, and by whom; for what market; to what extent; when did the industry die; has it any possibility of